(b) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh who have assured that they will not allow militants to use their territory for carrying on activities prejudicial to the interests of India.The Government of Bangladesh has assured full cooperation in the matter of deportation of Indian militants arrested by them.

(c) The barbed wire fencing along the boundary between Tripura and Bangladesh is planned to be completed in a phased manner by 2007. For timely completion of fencing and road construction work in Tripura High Level Empowered Committee has approved the modified designs and cost estimates thereof. The State Public Works Department (PWD) and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) have also been involved in execution of the project.

(d) Presently, there are no plans to induct additional Army troops for counter insurgency operations in Tripura, as the existing Army/Assam Rifles force levels involved in combating insurgency in the State is considered adequate. However, the situation is constantly being monitored and requisite steps, including increment of force levels, will be considered, should the circumstances necessitate.

Strength of BSF personnel in Tripura

2888. SHRI MATIUL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of the international border between India and Bangladesh;

(b) the length of this border with the State of Tripura;

(c) the number of BSF battalions required for this length of border with the State of Tripura;

(d) the number of BSF battalions existing at present in Tripura; and

(e) the steps of the Central Government propose to take to remove inadequacy in the strength of BSF in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS {SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and {b) India has 4096 kms of border with Bangladesh out of which 856 kms (approximately) falls in the State of Tripura.

(c) to (e) The deployment ot BSF is equal to its present authorization tor the border. It is not in the public interest to indicate the details of deployment of the force on border.

Smuggling of lion skin and claws

†2889. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARl: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have arrested 19 tribals recently with skin and claws of lion and other wild animals;

(b) whether any proof of links of these tribals with international smugglers have been found;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken notice of this incident and the steps taken for serious investigation in the matter;

(d) whether Ministry are considering to set up any Integrated Monitoring Agency for other States affected with such incidents; and

(e) the precautionary steps taken by the Ministry so that such incidents do not taken place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMl): {a) to (c) In Umariya district of Madhya Pradesh, 14 persons were arrested with skin and claws of wild animals. A case No. 1857/12 and 13 dated 04.07.2002 has been registered and investigations are on.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to set up any Integrated Monitoring Agency. The Government has already taken various steps which include signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild FIroa and Fauna (CITES), bilateral agreements for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife, setting up of regional and sub-regional offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres, authorizing Central Bureau of Investigation to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders, coordination with INTERPOL, setting up of a Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, prohibition of export of wild animals and their derivatives a under EXIM, policy, financial/technical help to the States under Centrally Sponso-ed Schemes, wz. Project Tiger, Project

†Original notice of the quostion was received in Hindi.